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Chairman: Mr. Majoor ..... (Netherlands)
later: Mr. Peralta ..... (Paraguay)
later: Mr. Majoor ..... (Netherlands)

Contents

Agenda item 97: Crime prevention and criminal justice* (*continued*)

Agenda item 98: International drug control* (*continued*)

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 97: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A.63/87, 89, 90 and 99; and A/C.3/63/L.2)

Agenda item 98: International drug control (*continued*) (A/63/111)

1. **Ms. Saoud** (Qatar) said that her country had established several mechanisms to combat human trafficking, including a shelter for women and children victims, under the coordination of a national bureau. A conference organized by the Bureau and the University of Qatar had sought to formulate a shared vision of the issue for use in university curricula.

2. Qatar had signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and had established a National Committee for Integrity and Transparency, with broad representation. Qatar would be hosting the third session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention in 2009. The country had also hosted a conference entitled "Corruption-Free Asia: A Long-Term Vision", designed to raise awareness, disseminate information, and increase the participation of the private sector, education institutions and civil society. A regional office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) had been opened in the country.

3. The Government had taken similar action against drug use. The Qatari Olympic Committee had established a fund to support non-governmental organizations that used sports to combat the spread of drugs among the young. Such efforts had led to the award of the United Nations Global Sport Fund to the Crown Prince and President of the Qatari Olympic Committee.

4. **Mr. Natalegawa** (Indonesia) said that the upcoming Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would tackle the issue of crimes relating to natural resources. Such crimes damaged individuals, were detrimental to the ecosystem and obstructed global efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

5. Transnational organized crime was a growing threat to the world's economic, political and social security. Indonesia therefore welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to achieve greater balance in the UNODC regular budget between allocations for drugs and crime issues.

6. The second session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which Indonesia had hosted, had made a significant contribution to the return of illicitly acquired assets to their countries of origin. Indonesia was also an active participant in the programmes of the Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) Initiative of UNODC and the World Bank. A comprehensive international United Nations instrument was still needed to counter money-laundering.

7. Indonesia supported a victim-based approach to human trafficking that also tackled its root causes: poverty, lack of social and economic development and low levels of education. The Bali Process initiative had become a collaborative effort of over 50 countries and many international agencies. Such regional consultative processes were very effective, as their strong operational networks enabled them to respond to complexities and changing trends, as well as providing technical assistance and capacity-building. Indonesia also supported the development of a United Nations global plan of action to prevent human trafficking.

8. Indonesia supported the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and played an active role in the global fight against terrorism. The Bali Counter-Terrorism Process had established strong collaboration with legal and law enforcement practitioners in the region. The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation provided structured training for law enforcement officers in the region.

9. Indonesia had contributed to regional efforts to conclude the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Convention on Counter-Terrorism and had spearheaded cooperation in law enforcement, border control and the enactment of legislative frameworks for counter-terrorism. His country had also sponsored and participated in various initiatives to promote dialogue among civilizations.

10. The Political Declaration and Action Plan of the General Assembly's twentieth special session were still valid, but their implementation should be evaluated. Drug problems were transborder issues with dynamic trends, and new global policies and targets were needed. Supply and demand reduction should be addressed in a comprehensive manner with support for integrated and sustainable alternative-development

initiatives. International organizations, including financial agencies, should play an enhanced role.

11. **Mr. Chabar** (Morocco) said that his Government was implementing a comprehensive drug-control strategy that included the development of alternative crops and the promotion of income-generating activities, especially for women. Morocco had equipped ports, airports and road checkpoints with the necessary logistical means to enable them to comply with international standards. It had also undertaken large-scale operations that had resulted in the dismantling of drug-trafficking and money-laundering networks and the arrest and prosecution of the persons involved. His Government's commitment to the fight against drugs had been demonstrated by its hosting in 2007 of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

12. His Government was in the process of harmonizing its national legislation with its international commitments pertaining to the fight against transnational organized crime. In 2007, Morocco had enacted an anti-money-laundering law and had launched a campaign to raise awareness about the problem. In addition, it was considering the possibility of setting up a financial intelligence unit.

13. Morocco fully supported the actions and technical-assistance programmes carried out by UNODC, particularly in the context of the goAML initiative designed to monitor financial transactions and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. The King of Morocco had recently created the Central Authority on the Prevention of Corruption, thus demonstrating the Government's determination to put an end to impunity. Other measures taken included the creation of administrative support centres and the launching of Internet portals.

14. **Ms. Simovich** (Israel) said that Israel was a party to numerous conventions on narcotic drugs and was fully committed to the Action Plan adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session to counter the world drug problem. In 2008, Israel had begun a new four-year cycle as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and continued to seek opportunities for partnership and collaboration with other Member States and United Nations entities. Her delegation wished to commend the work of UNODC.

15. Israel's anti-narcotics policies were coordinated by its Anti-Drug Authority, within the Prime Minister's Office. Israel's broad range of demand-reduction programmes was consistent with the Secretary-General's assessment that declines in consumption tended to occur in countries where sustained and well-resourced demand-reduction strategies had been implemented (*A/63/111, para. 93*). For decades, Israel's Anti-Drug Authority had organized educational and advocacy campaigns targeting youth and had provided innovative drug-treatment and rehabilitation programmes. Israel had also introduced a Drug Treatment Court which worked in close cooperation with drug-treatment centres.

16. More attention should be paid to the issue of inhalants and other legitimate medicines such as cough syrup, which continued to be abused by some youth. Israel had launched public advocacy campaigns to alert parents to the dangers of the trend. In addition, Israel supported the call in the Secretary-General's report for greater international control of chemical precursors. Israel's drug-control efforts had achieved some success, as drug seizures for a variety of narcotics were the highest in the region, while drug addiction was relatively low compared to other developed nations.

17. While national and multilateral drug control seemed to be working to reduce demand, the story was quite different on the supply side. More resources must be devoted to promoting security and development in major drug-producing countries, including through crop-substitution programmes.

18. Drug trafficking also had implications for the international community through its connection to terrorism. In Israel, drugs, terrorism and the link between them were very real threats. Israel had invested a great deal of manpower and resources in preventing narcotics smuggling from Lebanon. The troubling condition along the northern border stood in stark contrast with the situation that existed along some of Israel's other borders, where law enforcement bodies on both sides were cooperating to reduce trafficking. The lessons learned from the recent review of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy were also relevant. Israel was working with cooperating neighbours, strengthening regional coordination in the fight against drugs. Her Government was also sharing its experience in abuse prevention and therapy and providing assistance with anti-trafficking capacity-building.

19. **Mr. Heller** (Mexico) said that his Government was working to achieve balance between reduction of demand and control of supply, particularly in regard to trafficking. In addition to prohibiting the import of pseudoephedrine and ephedrine, it was currently implementing a nationwide prevention and treatment strategy.

20. At the forty-third session of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD), held in May 2008, Mexico had presented a paper on the link between drug trafficking and arms trafficking. Within CICAD, Mexico was currently chair of the Expert Group on Money-Laundering Control and of the Group of Experts on Demand Reduction. It was also supporting the work of the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism.

21. At the Regional Summit on the World Drug Problem, Security and Co-operation, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, in August 2008, Mexico had offered to exchange information relevant to the fight against drug trafficking and crime and to set up a regional database on the subject. Mexico was currently participating in the review of the commitments undertaken at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which would culminate in the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. His delegation hoped that the results would lead to concrete actions in fulfilment of the commitments undertaken at the twentieth special session and help identify new challenges and priorities in the fight against drugs and related crimes.

22. **Mr. Christian** (Ghana) said that as a result of the recent upsurge in drug trafficking, the President of Ghana had rallied the nation for a war on drugs. The Government had initiated numerous measures following the recommendations of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB).

23. The national Narcotics Control Board (NACOB) had been restructured and a strategic plan for 2008-2010 was in place to strengthen drug law enforcement. Drug laws were being reviewed for conformity with United Nations conventions and bail was no longer granted for drug offences. The Board had established an Inter-agency Committee on Drug Law Enforcement to promote demand reduction and build inter-agency collaboration. Drug-abuse-prevention and demand-reduction programmes were in place and security-services-training institutions had included relevant components in their curricula.

24. International cooperation was crucial for local capacity-building and operational cooperation to fight drug trafficking. Ghana was collaborating with the United Kingdom for onsite training and exchange of expertise on airport interception, including through "Operation Westbridge", in which United Kingdom customs officers were providing training in the use of body-scanning equipment and in anti-smuggling techniques.

25. Such collaboration had considerably reduced drug trafficking through Accra International Airport and had resulted in the seizure of large quantities of drugs. Radio and television commercials had been used to raise public awareness of drug trafficking and handouts had been disseminated to the public.

26. The World Customs Organization and UNODC were assisting Ghana with implementation of the Global Container Control Project at the main port. Ghana called for increased assistance from donor countries for the provision of operational equipment and for implementation of the new drug policy. The outcome of the upcoming Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking would establish a stronger framework for efforts against drug trafficking in the subregion.

27. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon) said that drug control, crime deterrence and the prevention of terrorism were interrelated and should be tackled in an integrated manner with the promotion of long-term development. Destination countries should also support efforts to eliminate illicit-drug cultivation. Funding for rural communities from Lebanon's development and donor partners would ensure that farmers had sustainable alternatives to drug crops. Security and the rule of law were also indispensable and society as a whole, including health providers, needed to be involved. The family was instrumental as the nucleus of the social structure.

28. Globalization brought many opportunities and also challenges, including transnational crime, money-laundering, human trafficking and illicit drug trafficking. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme was essential for global cooperation on those issues. UNODC should receive adequate funding.

29. Lebanon was a party to the three major drug-control conventions as well as to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols relating to smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons. Lebanon was also in the process of ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

30. Lebanon's revised drug-control law contained provisions on money-laundering. There was a zero-tolerance policy towards illicit drugs, and the national plan was based on three pillars: supply reduction, demand reduction and treatment. Lebanon was cooperating with INTERPOL and had launched programmes to eliminate illicit cultivation.

31. According to the 2008 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report of the United States Department of State, Lebanon was neither a major illicit-drug producer nor a transit country, and there was practically no illicit-drug refining in the country. The Government had initiated public-awareness programmes, courses, conferences and workshops to discourage drug use. It had also disseminated information through the media, and school textbooks contained a chapter on narcotics awareness.

32. The Lebanese law on drugs provided for the establishment of a national council to provide substance abuse treatment, prevention, awareness and a national action plan. The Drug Control Office of the Ministry of the Interior was an active participant in the Arab Office for Narcotic Affairs and also in the meetings of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It reported to the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and to INCB. The Office cooperated with the UNODC Cairo Regional Office on all drug-related matters. Lebanese law-enforcement officers cooperated with foreign officials bilaterally and through INTERPOL. New Lebanese legislation offered drug addicts the option of medical treatment rather than prison, and criminal penalties were specified for money-laundering.

33. Lebanon supported all international efforts aimed at eradicating terrorism, as it had long been a victim of terrorism, ranging from State terrorism by Israel to political assassinations. His country had ratified 11 of the 13 international conventions on that subject in addition to the Arab convention, and cooperated fully with the relevant Security Council committees. Lebanon was committed to fighting terrorism while respecting human rights.

34. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that her country was party to most international instruments against crime. It had been among the first States to ratify the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its first two optional protocols. In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme and the International Migration Organization, it was drafting relevant legislation. The Ministry of the Interior was organizing an international workshop on the topic in Damascus, as part of a series of initiatives aimed at overhauling national legislation.

35. The Syrian Arab Republic supported earnest international efforts to combat terrorism and its root causes, but maintained a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy contained provisions addressing the conditions that led to terrorism, and it was important that those provisions should be implemented. Nor would the Global Strategy replace the need to define terrorism or to complete negotiations for a comprehensive counter-terrorism treaty. The Syrian Arab Republic had ratified 10 of the 13 relevant international conventions, and was examining the remaining three with a view to ratification. Its National Commission on Money-Laundering and Terrorist Funding was working closely with the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force. The country had ratified relevant regional conventions, and continued to play an active role in accordance with its international obligations.

36. The Syrian Arab Republic was working to combat the use of drugs, especially among young people, and to enact demand-reduction policies. It had ratified all relevant international conventions, had concluded bilateral agreements with neighbouring States, and looked forward to future international cooperation.

37. The country was working closely with UNODC and appreciated the Regional Office's efforts to provide help to Governments. It was essential to increase funding for UNODC.

38. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) said that the information revolution and modern means of communication and transportation could be exploited by criminals and terrorists, posing a threat that must be addressed by

civil society and the international community. While human trafficking, for example, tended to channel its victims from the less developed to the developed countries, drug trafficking joined the developing and developed countries in a more symbiotic relationship. In that regard he noted that criminals could take advantage of poverty and weak socio-economic conditions, and that alternative development, improvements in livelihood and poverty reduction could help greatly in reducing crime. The challenge for the international community was not only to implement relevant international instruments but also to promote cooperation and a multifaceted approach to combating transnational crime, human trafficking and terrorism.

39. Pakistan had worked to increase awareness of the drug problem and had eliminated illicit crops through a combination of strict law enforcement and socio-economic development. It had also worked at the regional and international levels to stop the flow of drugs from the region and prevent the import of precursor chemicals. To that end, it had signed several memorandums of understanding and extradition treaties with partners worldwide.

40. His Government had taken steps in many areas to combat transnational crime, particularly human trafficking, corruption and money-laundering. A human-trafficking ordinance had been promulgated several years earlier to combat human trafficking in a comprehensive manner and in accordance with national and international norms. Consultations were under way for the drafting of a national action plan against human trafficking. A human-trafficking unit had been established in the Federal Investigation Agency and a cyber-crime unit addressed the use of information technology for human trafficking.

41. The Anti-Narcotics Force was very active in combating drug trafficking. The Access to Justice Programme, a joint project with the Asian Development Bank, was reforming the criminal-justice system and the prosecutorial, judicial and prison systems and was transforming the police into an accountable and responsive force. A personal-identification system provided immigration and law enforcement authorities with an effective means to identify foreign travellers and supervise immigration. An anti-money-laundering ordinance established a comprehensive structure to curb illegal financial transactions through the Financial Intelligence Unit in the State Bank of Pakistan, which coordinated the efforts of the banking system to trace terrorist financing.

42. Pakistan was both a victim and a frontline State in the global fight against terrorism, one of the most serious threats facing mankind. He therefore commended the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its efforts to enhance member States' capacity to implement counter-terrorism conventions.

43. **Mr. Suay** (El Salvador) said that the serious threat posed by illicit drugs required a comprehensive, coordinated and balanced response. All States shared responsibility and should promote specific actions to support and cooperate with the transit regions. Effective criminal-justice systems, the rule of law and cooperation between States, including mutual judicial assistance on criminal issues, were decisive in fighting drug trafficking. It was also important to share the lessons learned and best practices in fighting that threat and to strengthen law enforcement.

44. El Salvador, like other Central American countries, was not only affected by drug trafficking but was also a victim of the associated organized crime and violence. El Salvador's tripartite vision took account of education, health and public-safety issues as part of a broad national development strategy covering all of those areas. El Salvador complied with its national and international obligations through its anti-drug plan, coordinated by the National Anti-Drug Commission. The Master Plan for Citizens' Safety currently being implemented covered a broad range of areas involving the police and justice system, including prevention and rehabilitation.

45. El Salvador had exercised regional leadership by ratifying the major international drug conventions and by signing bilateral cooperation agreements with Latin American countries. It was also party to most of the international conventions relating to counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime.

46. In December 2007, the presidents of Central America and Mexico had adopted a common security strategy to combat organized crime, drugs trafficking, criminal gangs, arms trafficking, terrorism and corruption, on the basis of the relevant regional and international instruments. Cooperation through bilateral and multilateral networks was essential in order to combat those phenomena.

47. Abuse of drugs had a devastating effect on the health and overall development of persons and hence of peoples and also led to all kinds of criminal manifestations. In El Salvador, the gang phenomenon was becoming a threat to public safety, as gangs were increasingly involved in organized crime, including extortion and drug trafficking. The Government had launched a policy of integral treatment, including prevention, rehabilitation and social reintegration, which required collective action and international cooperation. He called for a strengthening of all-round cooperation as a necessary tool to fight drug trafficking. El Salvador pledged to play its part in that endeavour.

48. **Mr. Al-Allaf** (Jordan) said that human trafficking did not occur in Jordan. The country was, however, party to a number of relevant international conventions. It had signed the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime, and was adapting national legislation with a view to ratification. A unit had been formed within the Ministry of Labour to investigate any instances of human trafficking.

49. In order to combat the drug problem, international cooperation should go hand in hand with local action and legislation. Jordan was party to several international conventions on the topic and was preparing a national strategy, focusing notably on the role of civil-society institutions. The Counter-Narcotics Directorate oversaw treatment for addicts and international cooperation. In 2001, the regional office of UNODC had presented an award to Jordan for its effective counter-narcotics action. The country was taking further action to train police in modern methods, target both supply and demand, and make the Addiction Recovery Centre into an institution of international renown.

50. Jordan condemned all forms of terrorism, and was grateful to the Terrorism Branch of UNODC for its assistance. Jordan had worked to align its legislation with the relevant international instruments, and was a founder member of the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force. The country had hosted the first session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and had provided funds for its work. It had also instituted an Anti-Corruption Agency, which had developed a national strategy, thereby enhancing Jordan's international standing in its efforts to combat corruption.

51. *Mr. Peralta (Paraguay), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

52. **Ms. Kavun** (Ukraine) said that her country was committed to enhancing global cooperation to combat the interrelated threats of transnational organized crime, terrorism, human trafficking and corruption. Ukraine strongly supported the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. Strengthening cooperation and dialogue between UNODC and the main donors and financial stakeholders was of particular importance. The recent report of the Executive Director of UNODC on the work of the Office was most welcome.

53. Her country supported the establishment of an open-ended intergovernmental review mechanism to upgrade national activities for further ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The third annual conference of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities had been held recently in Kyiv.

54. Ukraine supported the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and activities carried out within its framework to raise awareness and share information to combat human trafficking in partnership. The recent Vienna Forum had provided a strong impetus for the further development of an approach to address that crime. Ukraine hoped that the Global Initiative would contribute to the creation of an effective mechanism, without a standing bureaucracy, to cooperate internationally in new ways in that area. Ukraine supported the Economic and Social Council in its efforts to combat trafficking in persons and protect the victims.

55. In Ukraine, drug-related problems were a major concern. Ukraine was strongly committed to doing everything possible to counter the conditions exploited by drug trafficking and to combat the financing of trafficking and procurement networks. In that context, it welcomed efforts to prepare the high-level segment of the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Ukraine supported the creation of an intergovernmental consultation mechanism on drugs under the auspices of UNODC and welcomed efforts by UNODC to strengthen international cooperation in combating the world drug problem.

56. Regarding the link between the HIV/AIDS epidemic and injected drugs, it was important to pursue drug-demand reduction and drug prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, coupled with the use of alternatives to imprisonment for drug abusers. The Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Her Royal Highness Crown Princess of Norway Mette-Marit, who was a UNAIDS special representative, would be visiting Ukraine in just a few weeks. Their visit would provide an excellent opportunity to assess progress in the response to AIDS in Ukraine and strengthen national coordination among various stakeholders.

57. **Ms. Castillón** (Bolivia) said that the fight against the illicit drug trade and associated corruption, human trafficking and organized crime was a shared responsibility. She stressed, however, that an increased focus on reducing demand for and preventing the sale of illicit drugs and precursors would be more effective than the current emphasis on merely eradicating drug-related crops.

58. Her Government, bearing in mind the need to preserve social harmony, had been more successful in eliminating surplus production of coca leaf than preceding Governments, whose repressive policies had resulted in the death of numerous poor farmers responding to the demand from drug-consuming countries. During her Government's mandate, on the other hand, large areas of land had been removed from coca production.

59. She expressed regret that certain countries continued to politicize efforts to eliminate drug trafficking and singled out countries based on their good or bad diplomatic relations with those countries, ignoring Bolivia's efforts and the relative increase in coca production in neighbouring countries, which were unjustifiably praised for their efforts. In that context she deplored the decision by the United States to suspend Bolivia from the benefits of the Andean Trade Preferences Act and the fact that some countries made official development assistance dependent on progress in eliminating coca production.

60. Reliable studies had shown that coca leaf contained low concentrations of alkaloids and there was no reason to stigmatize the practice of chewing coca leaves. Bolivia's acceptance of traditional and medicinal uses of coca leaf was borne out by a number of instruments adopted by the International Labour Organization Convention the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Health Organization. She reaffirmed her Government's determination to combat drug trafficking but in a context of respect for the millions of Bolivians who, while opposing illicit drug trafficking, demanded the right to preserve their traditional values, including consumption of the coca leaf.

61. **Mr. Khaleel** (Maldives) said that no single country could tackle transnational organized crime on its own. Combating the phenomenon required the unwavering commitment of the entire international community.

62. Drug abuse and drug-related crimes were the most serious socio-economic problem currently facing Maldives. The number of drug-abuse cases had been rising steadily over the past decade, with young people overrepresented.

63. While the link between crime and drug abuse in Maldives had not been formally studied, it was believed that drug-related crime had increased in recent years. Some 80 per cent of prison inmates in Maldives were or had been drug abusers. It appeared that the increase in drug use could be attributed to rapid changes in values in Maldivian society and the difficulties young people had in coping with modern society due to a lack of skills and a support system.

64. Measures were needed to stop illicit drugs from entering the country as well as to reduce demand. The Government had formulated a national drug-control plan in late 2005. The Government was also working with United Nations agencies and other regional and international bodies, including civil society. An initiative had been launched jointly with the United Nations Children's Fund to raise awareness, prevent drug abuse and promote recovery among addicts. A safe-workplace initiative had also been launched, targeting large employers, especially in the tourist-resort industry. Recently launched reforms in Maldives had transformed the political and judicial systems in the country, and assistance in that area provided by UNODC was much appreciated.

65. Maldives actively participated in international and regional cooperation mechanisms to combat drug-related crimes. There had been close cooperation with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation to implement the Association's Convention on Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, and

recently Maldives had signed the Association's Convention of Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters.

66. **Ms. Tadesse** (Ethiopia) noted that Ethiopia was particularly vulnerable to drug trafficking owing to its strategic location in the Horn of Africa. The role of its capital as an international transport hub compounded the challenge. The Government had a policy to deter the illegal manufacture, distribution and consumption of narcotic and psychotropic substances, as well as laws governing their supply, stock management and distribution. A law stipulated severe penalties for drug trafficking and abusers. The recently established drug-oversight agency exercised strict control over licit drugs, and coordinated drug-abuse-prevention programmes.

67. UNODC had recently opened a project office in Ethiopia and mobilized substantial resources to stimulate national activity to fight drugs. The Government reported to the International Narcotics Control Board and UNODC on a timely basis, covering drug control, treatment and rehabilitation. In 2008, Ethiopia had received a high-level drug-control delegation led by a senior official of the International Narcotics Control Board.

68. Ethiopia expressed its appreciation for contributions in the area of law enforcement capacity-building by the Governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Continuing support from development partners was crucial to fighting the drug problem, which threatened Ethiopia's economic development.

69. **Ms. Mballa Eyenga** (Cameroon) said that the reports submitted by UNODC served as a reminder of the immensity of the challenges to be met. The reduction in resources for the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders was regrettable, especially given the diversity and extent of the Institute's activities. Adequate support for the Institute was essential.

70. Cameroon was particularly aware of the problem of corruption, which was one cause of underdevelopment and poverty. Corruption destroyed the social fabric, turning institutions into places where political favours were traded and private interests satisfied rather than fulfilling their original function, to serve the public interest. Corruption placed development in jeopardy and hampered investment, depriving countries of needed public funds. In that context, the Convention against Corruption was most welcome, and its priorities were in line with Cameroon's own concerns.

71. The President of Cameroon had long been involved in fighting corruption. National policy was three-pronged, involving strengthening the regulatory framework, establishing appropriate oversight mechanisms and suppressing economic crimes. Cameroon had ratified the Convention against Corruption, and the national criminal code contained provisions punishing corruption and economic crime in all its forms. Laws on Government contracts and on the declaration of goods and assets owned by public officials had been promulgated or were being drafted. A new draft law broadened the definition of corruption and gave priority to international cooperation.

72. New Government bodies established to fight corruption included such areas as transparency in public finances and financial investigation to combat cross-border financial crime, and included an anti-corruption commission. Dishonest managers were prosecuted. Fighting corruption was considered a priority in eliminating poverty and encouraging development. In that context, Cameroon needed support from its bilateral and multilateral partners in order to fulfil its obligations.

73. *Mr. Majoor (Netherlands) resumed the Chair.*

74. **Ms. AlShahail** (Saudi Arabia) said that her country, which had ratified the first and second Protocols to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, welcomed the assistance made available by UNODC and remained firmly committed to combating drugs and transnational crime, a task that required States to work together.

75. At the national level, the country had enacted a plan to combat human trafficking. Statistics were being compiled, and a committee of concerned governmental and non-governmental organizations had been formed in order to make recommendations, implementation of which would be monitored by the National Human Rights Commission. The Cabinet of Ministers had taken a number of decisions aimed at prohibiting all forms of human trafficking. Saudi Arabia was also active at the national and international levels in tackling the scourge of drug use.

76. **Mr. Chiriboga** (Ecuador) condemned all forms of terrorism, which threatened international stability

and security, democracy, socio-economic development, human dignity and basic human rights. His Government supported all regional and international efforts to promote a coordinated response to terrorism and organized crime, while bearing in mind the need to preserve respect for human rights and international law, national sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

77. Ecuador had ratified numerous regional and international instruments relating to terrorism and continued to work to enact enabling legislation for the full domestic application of those instruments and other international commitments in all areas related to terrorism and crime. His Government had for example been commended by UNODC for the impressive results of its participation in the Container Control Pilot Programme. The United States Congress had recognized his Government's tremendous efforts to combat drug trafficking and had extended Ecuador's preferred trade status under the Andean Trade Preferences Act (ATPA). In that context he pointed out that Ecuador was not a centre for production or distribution of narcotic drugs, alkaloids or pharmaceutical products, nor was it a centre for money-laundering.

78. His Government took seriously the plight of victims of violence and had established clear procedures for processing persons who qualified for refugee status. Ecuador currently received the highest number of refugees of any country in the western hemisphere, and, despite the assistance of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, was required to allocate significant resources to meeting the need of those persons.

79. He called on the international community to ensure full respect for the principle of shared responsibility. It should likewise recognize the enormous efforts made by countries, including Ecuador, to combat all types of illicit activities.

80. **Mr. Ramadan** (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply to the statement made by the representative of Israel, regretted that that delegate had politicized the Committee's efforts to find constructive solutions to the problem of drug trafficking by referring to a lack of cooperation in that regard from a neighbouring State, Lebanon. He stressed that his Government remained ready to discuss all aspects of the situation in the Middle East with a view to achieving a solution in the best interests of all inhabitants of the region, whether Israeli or Arab, based on withdrawal by Israel from the occupied territories and recognition of the right of return of the Palestinian people. He recalled that the Arab States, including Lebanon, had proposed a peace initiative in 2002. It was time for action, not words, from the Israeli Government.

81. With regard to drug trafficking, he pointed out that in 2003 the United States Department of State had reported that Israel was a major centre for the distribution of ecstasy and that Israelis had been involved in most arrests linked to that drug, and had recommended appropriate sanctions. In 2008 the State Department had also reported that the major ecstasy network in Belgium was operated by Israelis and that Israel was the source of most of the ecstasy in the United States.

The meeting rose at 12.25 p.m.